



County of Los Angeles CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICE

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October 10, 2008

To: Supervisor Yvonne B. Burke, Chair
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From: William T Fujioka
Chief Executive Officer

LOS ANGELES REGIONAL COLLABORATIVE FOR CLIMATE ACTION AND SUSTAINABILITY (ITEM NO. 2 AGENDA OF OCTOBER 14, 2008)

At your October 7, 2008 Board meeting, this Office was directed to report back at the October 14, 2008 Board meeting regarding a motion on the Los Angeles Regional Collaborative (Collaborative) for Climate Action and Sustainability Charter (Charter). The motion authorized the Chair to sign the Charter and instructed the County Energy and Environmental Policy Team, and other staff, as appropriate, to support and participate in this effort.

National, state and local climate change legislation will become more and more intertwined with international efforts such as the Kyoto Protocol, as well as the activities of developing regional emissions markets. The basis for all these efforts will be the quantification of emissions, implementation of reduction measures, and the attribution of "ownership" of reductions. Membership in the Collaborative represents a significant voluntary step towards regional implementation of climate change legislation.

We have had a brief opportunity to review the Charter and have the following observations:

Proposed Benefits

- Legislation - The Collaborative has the potential to help the County have a better understanding of what is going on and what is coming down the road. It is extremely difficult for one entity, such as the County, to understand everything that is happening or is planned at all levels of government as part of legislation, regulation and market regimes. Membership in the Collaborative would provide an opportunity to leverage the resources of all Collaborative members to understand the broad range of issues and to protect the County's interests.

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- More Cost Effective Compliance with Regulations - Through the joint efforts of Collaborative members, the County should be more able to identify specifically where and how the County will be impacted. The ability to draw on the knowledge and experience of other Collaborative members will be an important resource to determine how the County can mitigate costs while complying with regulations.
- Establishing Regional Interests - The Collaborative would provide a forum where diverse regional interests can lay out their positions on certain issues before those issues are represented in public forums as the "region's interests." Having discussions in advance at the Collaborative level, with resulting recommendations made to elected officials as the decision-makers, will aid in formally identifying and establishing regional interests.
- Improved Funding Opportunities – Because climate change issues are regional issues, it is anticipated that grant or other types of Federal and State funding will most likely be allocated regionally and where there is regional collaboration. Being part of the Collaborative should improve the County's chance to benefit from such funding.
- Leverage Consultant and Regional Reporting Resources – Costs which would probably have to be incurred by the County could be shared with other Collaborative members. For example, the Collaborative could agree to hire one firm to provide consistent, updated information to all Collaborative members regarding regulatory activities and related current events. Funding for a baseline report of greenhouse gas usage in the region could also be shared between Collaborative members.
- Setting Regional Priorities – The Collaborative would provide a forum to discuss and make recommendations on regional priorities on key issues, such as where to focus on greenhouse gas emission reductions, establishing educational programs, identifying funding sources, etc.

Collaborative Charter

- Under the proposed Charter, the Collaborative would provide policy and programmatic recommendations to its member agencies.
- Joining the Collaborative at this beginning stage does not require an upfront financial appropriation from the County. However, if the County joins, it would be part of the Steering Committee; the Charter calls for the Steering Committee to identify funds for a one-year minimum pilot period. Private sector grants, Federal and state funding, membership fees, etc. are all potential funding sources for Collaborative funding.
- The Charter calls for the Collaborative to hire a Network Facilitator to provide administrative support, such as: 1) developing a funding plan; 2) setting up and running monthly meetings; 3) facilitating information sharing and best practices between members; 4) establishing media relations to inform the public about the

programs and progress of the Collaborative; 5) coordinating Collaborative working groups who will be addressing specific issues; and 6) other duties.

- The Charter also calls for a needs assessment of the region to be conducted, including "...an annual survey and analysis of current and proposed efforts to meet greenhouse gas emission reduction goals and begin the development of a regional climate change action plan, regional goals, and priority areas to target for greenhouse gas emission reduction."
- The Charter includes a section on pilot projects as part of the initial scope of work. The list of potential projects includes a wide variety of topics covering diverse areas such as transportation, development, energy, water usage, green buildings, waste management, and regional climate change modeling. Funding for selected projects would need to be identified as part of the annual budget and work plan.
- After one year, the Charter states that the efficacy of the Collaborative will be formally evaluated and the Steering Committee will determine appropriate long-term funding mechanisms.
- During the one-year pilot period, Collaborative Members will have the ability to withdraw if they feel they are no longer able to participate; they will not incur any debt or exit fees.

A number of details remain to be worked out by the agencies and organizations that choose to participate in the Collaborative. A specific work plan, staffing, budget, funding sources and cost sharing model (if applicable) must all be developed and negotiated between the members. Agencies who have participated in preliminary discussions or have been identified for initial membership include: the County, the Cities of Los Angeles and Santa Monica, the Los Angeles Community Redevelopment Agency, MTA, LAUSD, UCLA, MWD, Regional Water Quality Board, SCAG, Sierra Club, GreenLA, Tree People, LA Chamber of Commerce, LA Business Council, and ICLEI.

It is our understanding that County Counsel has reviewed the Collaborative Charter and has not expressed any concerns. Future agreements or amendments should also be reviewed by County Counsel prior to approval. Also, any funding commitment made by the County would need to come back to your Board for approval.

Recommendation

We recommend that your Board authorize the Chair to sign the Regional Collaborative Charter and that the County reassess its participation at the end of the first year.

Please contact Ellen Sandt, Deputy Chief Executive Officer, at (213) 974-1186 if you have any questions or need additional information.

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c: Deputy Chief Executive Officers